REMARKS

Claims 1-11 remain pending in this application. Claims 1-5 and 7-11 have been amended.

Rejection of Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Rodeffer (US 5,507,025).

The present claimed invention provides a method and apparatus for acquiring satellite signals comprising the steps of "recalling from memory a local oscillator frequency offset value associated with said second LNB and "tuning a local oscillator frequency for receiving a selected channel with a tuner using the local oscillator frequency offset value" as recited by the presently amended claim 1.

The present invention, as recited by presently amended claim 1 provides a method of tuning a satellite signal by utilizing a previously determined local oscillator frequency offset in conjunction with the nominal local oscillator frequency. The current invention greatly speeds the acquisition time required to lock a satellite signal since the previously determined frequency changes resulting from receiver temperature or age are immediately compensated for, therefore requiring the tuner to compensate for fewer deviations from the nominal LO frequency, such as transponder frequency adjustments.

Rodeffer discloses a method and apparatus for satellite receivers with variable pre-detection bandwidths. The satellite receiver has first and second stages that are serially coupled so that an output of the first stage feeds into an input of the second stage. Each of the first and second stages includes a tunable oscillator for providing a reference frequency.

It is contended in the office action that Rodeffer teaches a frequency offset value associated with each LNB. However, contrary to this contention Rodeffer teaches the "removal of a portion of either the left or right skirt of the signal 501 with respect to the fixed bandwidth 502" (Col 9, lines 11-12). This removal allows "local oscillator 408 [to be] tuned [so that] ... the filtered second IF signal 801 resembles a signal provided by a single bandpass filter" (Col 9, lines 59-62). The process of using the oscillator to remove left and right skirts of a frequency range is only used to change the symmetrical width of the frequency range and does not change the frequency which the signal is centered. The removal of left and right skirts as preformed in Rodeffer is unrelated to the frequency offset function of the present invention. Rodeffer neither disclose nor suggest "recalling from memory a local oscillator frequency offset value associated with said second LNB" and "tuning a local oscillator frequency for receiving a selected channel with a tuner using the local oscillator frequency offset value"" as recited by the presently amended claim 1. In fact, unlike the present invention, Rodeffer is not at all concerned with compensating for frequency drift.

As claims 2-7 and 9-11 are dependant on claims 1 and 8 respectively, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also allowable. In view of the above remarks it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-11 are also allowable.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 compliant enabling disclosure in Rodeffer showing the above discussed features. It is thus further respectfully submitted that claims 1-11 are not anticipated by Rodeffer. It is thus, further respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

The applicant respectfully submits, in view of the above arguments, that the all arguments made by the Examiner have been addressed and this rejection should be withdrawn. Therefore, the applicant respectfully submits that the present claimed invention is patentable.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Thomas Wetzel

By: _____
Brian J Cromarty
Reg. No. L0027
Tel. No. (609) 734-6804

Thomson Licensing Inc.
Patent Operations
PO Box 5312
Princeton, NJ 08543-5312
January 4, 2005